Minister of
Government Relations

Legislative Building
Regina, Saskatchewan S4S 0B3

October 2, 2006

Dear Annual Report Recipient:

Enclosed is the revised 2005-2006 Annual Report for the Department of Government Relations. It has been reprinted due to a number of print quality issues with the previous version. As well, a correction was made to one of the financial statements within the report.

Please shred the previous version of the 2005-2006 Annual Report, or contact (306) 787-8282 and the department will make arrangements to have it picked up.

Sincerely,

Harry Van Mulligen
Minister of Government Relations

Enclosure

Government of
Saskatchewan

2005 - 2006
Annual Report

Saskatchewan
Government
Relations

2007-04697/

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This annual report can be viewed and downloaded at http://www.gr.gov.sk.ca/publications.htm
Government Relations' main website address is http://www.gr.gov.sk.ca

Ministers' Letter of Transmittal

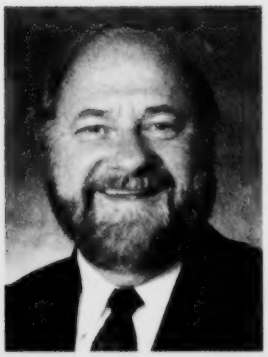
The Honourable Dr. Lynda M. Haverstock
Lieutenant Governor of Saskatchewan

Your Honour:

It is our privilege to submit to you the Annual Report of Saskatchewan Government Relations for the fiscal year ending March 31, 2006.

Respectfully submitted,

Pat Atkinson
Minister Responsible for Immigration



Glenn Hagel
Provincial Secretary

Harry Van Mulligen
Minister of Government Relations

Deputy Minister's Letter of Transmittal

The Honourable Pat Atkinson
Minister Responsible for Immigration

The Honourable Glenn Hagel
Provincial Secretary

The Honourable Harry Van Mulligen
Minister of Government Relations

Dear Ministers:

I have the honour of submitting the Annual Report of Saskatchewan Government Relations for the fiscal year ending March 31, 2006.

Respectfully submitted,

Lily Stonehouse
Deputy Minister, Government Relations
Deputy Provincial Secretary

Introduction

This annual report describes the actual results for the key actions and performance measures for Government Relations that were published in the *2005-06 Performance Plan*, which was released in March 2005 and can be accessed at the following website address:
http://www.gr.gov.sk.ca/publications.htm.

This annual report also describes results for Government Relations associated with the key actions included in the department's *Budget and Performance Plan Summary for 2005-06*, which is the government-wide plan released with the 2005-06 budget and can be accessed at the following website address:
http://www.gov.sk.ca/finance/budget/budget05/budgetsummary.pdf.

Enhancements to this annual report are tied to continued implementation of the provincial government's Accountability Framework. Reporting on actual year-end results, both financial and performance, as compared to a plan released at the start of the year increases public accountability.

The department's *2006-07 Performance Plan* was released with the provincial budget on April 6, 2006, and can be accessed, along with previous annual reports and performance plans, at http://www.gr.gov.sk.ca/publications.htm.

Who We Are

Mandate

The mandate of the department is to promote Saskatchewan's interests through management of the province's relations with other governments, in Saskatchewan, in Canada and abroad. The department works in partnership with communities to support local governance, provide financial and technical support and develop legislation, regulations and other policies to meet the changing needs of municipal governments. The department also coordinates and manages matters related to Government House, French-language services, official protocol, provincial honours, and provides administrative services to the Office of the Lieutenant Governor.

Vision

Government Relations works collectively and cohesively toward the department's vision that:

The citizenship of Saskatchewan people is enriched by:

- creating and maintaining respectful, responsive and effective partnerships between governments in Saskatchewan, Canada and abroad;
- celebrating our heritage and honouring our achievements.

Key programs and services

We function in a challenging environment with a very broad mandate. As a whole, the department acts as a central agency, and therefore partners with other government departments in order to achieve our goals. In some instances, our ability to achieve our goals is heavily impacted by national and global influences.

We comprise three main streams that work collectively and in an integrated fashion to deliver our mandate: Intergovernmental Relations, Municipal Relations and the Provincial Secretary Division.

Intergovernmental Relations

Intergovernmental Relations has both a domestic or Canadian focus (namely the management of federal-provincial, including constitutional, and inter-provincial relations) and an international focus, including trade policy, international relations and immigration. The Office of French-language Co-ordination also provides the Francophone community with a single-window access point into the provincial government.

Federal-provincial and constitutional relations advance Saskatchewan's economic, social and constitutional interests through the strategic management of intergovernmental partnerships within Canada. The trade policy function manages the provincial development and intergovernmental negotiation of policies related to domestic and international trade negotiations, while international relations manages the pursuit of the government's interests abroad. Immigration supports economic immigration to meet critical labour market needs and business opportunities in the province, and addresses issues in services and credential recognition for immigrants and refugees.

The primary partners for these functions – both domestic and international – are other Canadian governments and organizations involved in managing the intergovernmental dimensions of these files.

Municipal Relations

The department provides financial, advisory and technical support and develops programs, legislation, regulations and other policies to establish a framework for local government to meet the changing needs of Saskatchewan people in 13 cities and 469 other urban municipalities, 296 rural municipalities and 24 northern municipalities. The department's role includes working with the municipal sector to build good local government and defining and protecting public interests in Saskatchewan's system of local government and land use development. The department is also responsible for municipal administration and operations in the Northern Administration District.

Key partners include municipal councils and administrators, municipal associations, community planners and property assessment appraisers. The department also works closely with other provincial departments and in consultation with

other provinces and territories in carrying out its responsibilities.

Provincial Secretary

Provincial Secretary includes the Office of the Lieutenant Governor, the Office of Protocol and Honours and Government House Museum and Heritage Property.

The Office of Protocol and Honours is responsible for official visits and functions, state ceremonies, and the provincial Honours and Awards Program. Government House is a key provincial heritage property whose mandate is to provide tourist and educational programs to schools and the community at large, a government hospitality facility, and the Office of the Lieutenant Governor.

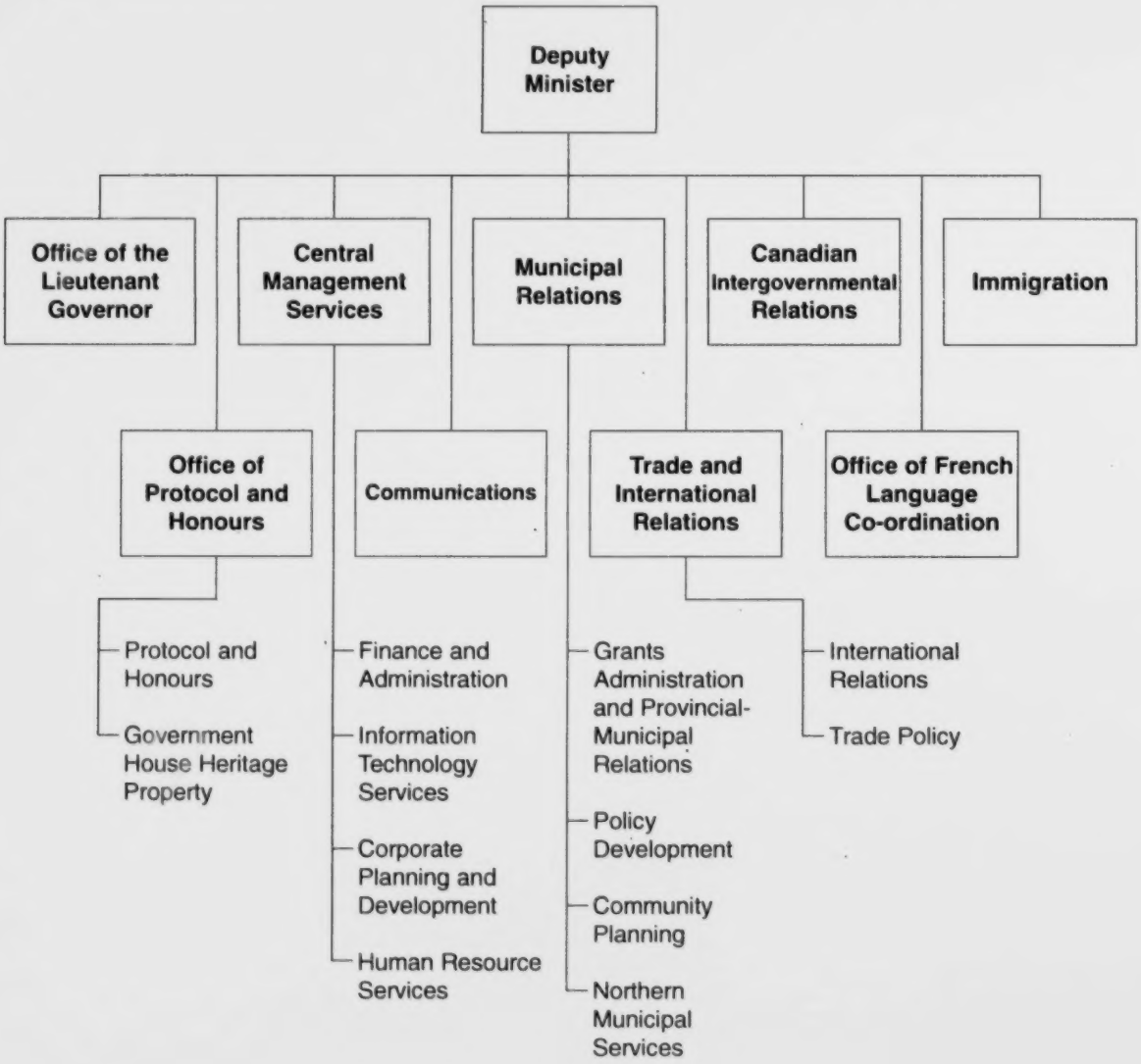
The provincial government's Honours and Awards Program (the Saskatchewan Order of Merit, the Saskatchewan Volunteer Medal, the Saskatchewan Protective Services Medal, the Saskatchewan Centennial Medal, the Saskatchewan Distinguished Service Award and the Premier's Award for Excellence in the Public Service) recognizes contributions of our citizens that are vital to the well-being of Saskatchewan people.

These offices interact routinely with members of the public, and with organizations sharing an interest in Saskatchewan's heritage, culture, and the promotion of the accomplishments of our people.

Service-delivery system

The department employs approximately 180 people with offices in Regina, Saskatoon, La Ronge and Buffalo Narrows.

Organization Chart



2005-06 Results at a Glance

Summary of Performance Results

The department made significant progress in advancing its goals in 2005-06. Following are highlights of the most significant performance results by strategic goal:

Goal 1. Canada's constitutionally recognized communities and people are acknowledged, respected and supported within our province and federation.

- Negotiated and signed the Canada-Saskatchewan Agreement on French-language Services with the Government of Canada for a total shared investment of $5.2 million from 2005-2006 to 2008-2009. It is the first such agreement to contain a strategic plan with the goal of gradually increasing services in French.

- Adopted the implementation guidelines for the Government of Saskatchewan French-language Services Policy to assist departments, Crown corporations and agencies in implementing the Government of Saskatchewan French-language Services Policy.

Goal 2. Saskatchewan's social, economic, and constitutional interests are advanced, and its values are recognized and reflected, within a strong, united Canadian federation and within the international community.

- Saskatchewan played a leadership role at the 2005 Western Premiers' Conference and at the 2005 Council of the Federation summer meeting in raising awareness of the dangers associated with crystal meth. As a result of this work, many provinces have restricted access to key ingredients used to produce crystal meth and have increased resources for the prevention and treatment of addictions. The federal government has increased the criminal penalties for crystal meth offences.

- Advanced Saskatchewan's objectives in the new trilateral *Security and Prosperity Partnership of North America*, involving Canada, the U.S. and Mexico.

- Advanced provincial economic and environmental interests in the U.S. through participation in the Western Premiers and Governors meeting in Colorado; co-hosted the Midwestern Legislative Conference in Regina (the first ever outside the U.S.); and managed border-state (i.e. Montana, North Dakota) exchanges by both executive and legislative officials.

- Advanced our bilateral relationships with Ukraine and South Africa.

- Supported the Premier's participation on economic missions to Asia and the United States.

- Responded positively to requests for disaster relief in the wake of the South Asian earthquake and Central American floods.

- Advanced Saskatchewan's negotiating objectives at the World Trade Organization Ministerial Meeting in Hong Kong in December 2005, and in bilateral negotiations between Canada and South Korea and Canada and the European Union.

- Negotiated Saskatchewan's accession to the 6th Protocol of Amendment on Crown procurement in the *Agreement on Internal Trade*. Continued to lead a national intergovernmental team looking at ways to improve that agreement's dispute resolution mechanism, and otherwise remained fully engaged in all other Working Groups in the Council of the Federation's work plan on internal trade.

- In 2005-06, the wheat dispute with the U.S. was successfully resolved in Canada's and Saskatchewan's favour, while significant access to the U.S. market for live cattle and beef was recaptured. Softwood lumber litigation and negotiations were ongoing.

- Partnered in the production and public release of Saskatchewan's first *State of Trade* publication.

- Expanded Immigration Branch and committed to increasing immigration to Saskatchewan to 5,000 immigrants per year by 2008.

- Nominations under the Saskatchewan Immigration Nominee Program (SINP) for 2005-06 were 454, almost double the total for 2004-05.

- Announced a new Family Members category under the SINP, allowing permanent residents to nominate family members who have a strong likelihood of establishment in Saskatchewan.

- Created new language and employment services programs, i.e., Enhanced Language Training (ELT) and the Immigrant Internship Program (IIP).

Goal 3. Respectful, effective municipal-provincial relationships that strengthen the quality of local governance for the benefit of Saskatchewan residents.

- Assisted municipalities in providing services to their residents, significant new funding has been provided to municipalities that includes a one-time additional supplementary payment of $12.2 million in Revenue Sharing and $32 million of unconditional funding for capital projects under the Community Share 2006 program. Also, provincial and federal agreements were established that will provide $147.7 million of federal gas tax revenues over five years under the federal New Deal for Cities and Communities and $12.5 million in federal funds for public transit.

- Assisted Learning in providing $55 million in education property tax relief to all property taxpayers in both of the 2005 and 2006 taxation years and in developing sustainable education property tax relief for agricultural land starting in 2006. An additional $52.8 million is being provided for education property tax relief for agricultural land, which will achieve on average a 60/40 provincial/local government education funding split for agricultural land. The department and Learning are working on a long-term solution for property tax relief for all property owners.

- *The Municipalities Act* was passed and came into force on January 1, 2006. The Act provides smaller urban and rural municipalities with a renewed legislative framework that will help enable municipalities to respond to the challenges of maintaining safe and viable communities in the future.

Goal 4. Saskatchewan's identity, heritage and the achievements of our people are honoured, promoted and celebrated.

- Managed the Centennial visit of The Queen and The Duke of Edinburgh in May 2005.

- Established the Saskatchewan Youth Award for implementation in 2006-07.

- Managed the Saskatchewan Centennial Medal Program through 78 events with 3,500 medals awarded.

- Successful involvement in such centennial initiatives as the Saskatchewan Remembers Committee, the marking of the Premiers' grave sites, and the Veterans Memorial Highway initiative.

- The Government House Centennial Project was officially named "QEII Wing" and was opened by The Queen in May 2005. The Government House Centennial Project interpretive centre was named in honour of former Lieutenant Governor J.E.N. (Jack) Wiebe and was officially opened by The Queen in May 2005.

Summary of Financial Results

The 2005-06 department budget was $161.5 million with additional special warrant funding of $44.2 million. This special warrant provided $12.2 million in supplementary revenue sharing grants to municipalities and $32 million for one-time capital grant funding to municipalities through the Community Share 2006 program. In total, the department's revised estimates for 2005-06 were $205.7 million.

Total 2005-06 expenditures were $198.3 million, an under expenditure of $7.4 million primarily resulting from delays in construction of infrastructure projects.

The 2005-06 department revenue budget was $17.1 million; actual revenues for 2005-06 were $41.3 million. The increased revenue of $24.2 million was primarily a result of unanticipated revenue from two new federal programs, the New Deal for Cities and Communities and the Agreement on the Transfer of Funds for Public Transit.

For 2005-06, the comparison of actual to budgeted full-time equivalents was 177 to 181.5. The under utilization of 4.5 full-time equivalents is primarily the result of delays in staffing various positions within the department.

2005-06 Performance Results

The purpose of this section is to report on and explain the detailed performance results associated with all key actions and performance measures in the department's *2005-06 Performance Plan.*

The department uses these results to assess overall progress towards achieving its goals and objectives each year, and in turn, to inform or adjust future plans and actions.

For example, many of the 2005-06 results have contributed to further strengthening the relationship between the provincial government and the municipal sector and the capacity of local governments. This includes increased revenue sharing, municipal infrastructure, property tax relief, SAMA and urban development funding, and the work with SUMA and SARM to develop a new Municipalities Act. In addition, the department continued to build on this by working with municipal associations to develop an agreement with the federal government on funding under the New Deal and to develop information and orientation materials to prepare municipalities for the new *Municipalities Act.*

Another example is the expansion of the Saskatchewan Immigrant Nominee Program (SINP). Targeted promotion and recruitment initiatives are increasing the number of immigrants who are eligible to be nominated to work in Saskatchewan. These changes have contributed to an increase in SINP nominations from 242 at the end of 2004-05 to 454 at the end of 2005-06.

The key actions presented in our 2005-06 plan are listed below, followed by a report on our actual progress for each. Actual results information is included for all key actions and performance measures that were published in our *2005-06 Performance Plan*, as well as for all commitments related to Government Relations in the government-wide *2005-06 Performance Plan Summary.*

Additional information about our performance measures for 2005-06 is available on our website at http://www.gr.gov.sk.ca/PDFs/performance_plans/2005-06.pdf.

Goal 1

Canada's constitutionally recognized communities and people are acknowledged, respected and supported within our province and federation.

Objective 1. Enhance the delivery of French-language services in Saskatchewan in sectors important to Saskatchewan's Francophone community.

The Government of Saskatchewan recognizes that equitable access to provincial government services in French is essential to sustaining the Francophone community's development and its ability to maintain its contribution to the social, economic and cultural development of Saskatchewan.

Important strides were made toward enhancing the delivery of French-language services in Saskatchewan in 2005-06. After widespread consultations within our government and with our Francophone community stakeholders, the French-language Services Policy Implementation Guidelines, officially approved by the provincial Cabinet in January 2006, are now available to all our government partners. At the same time, Saskatchewan developed and presented the Government of Canada with a four-year strategic plan. Saskatchewan's first strategic plan on French-languages services is an integral part of the new Canada-Saskatchewan Agreement on French-language Services (2005-2006 to 2008-2009), signed in March 2006. This will result in an investment of $5.2 million over the four years of the Agreement.

In addition, the work of our translation unit in the Office of French-language Co-ordination (OFLC) received an increase in volume of more than 50 per cent in 2005-06. These translations contribute directly to an increase in services available in French in Saskatchewan, such as the Budget speech (Finance), the Crop Insurance Programs (Agriculture), as well as the *Anglers' Guide* and the *Hunters' and Trappers' Guide* (Environment). As well, departments, Crown corporations and agencies continue to work closely with our department to identify opportunities to increase

the provision of French-language services to Saskatchewan citizens.

Key Results

- Implement the Government of Saskatchewan French-language Services Policy by consulting with departments and key agencies to update the workable timeframe and realistic guidelines and to facilitate projects. [2005-06 planned result]
  - Creation of Implementation Guidelines in consultation with the Intragovernmental Liaison Network and the Joint Liaison Committee.
  - Formal adoption of the Implementation Guidelines in January 2006.
- Prepare the annual report detailing progress in achieving the service goals as set out in the French-language Services Policy. [2005-06 planned result]
  - Draft Annual Report prepared for 2004-2005. Decision to create a one-time, two-year report including 2004-2005 and 2005-2006 caused a delay in publication. The 2004-06 Annual Report will be published in June 2006.
- Maintain effective consultation between the Government of Saskatchewan and the Fransaskois community through a minimum of four meetings per year of the Provincial Government-Francophone Community Joint Liaison Committee on French-language Services. [2005-06 planned result]
  - The Joint Liaison Committee met three times in 2005-2006 and contributed to the development of the Implementation Guidelines and Saskatchewan's Strategic Plan under the Canada-Saskatchewan Agreement on French-language Services. The fourth meeting was cancelled due to the transition underway in the Office of French-language Co-ordination following the retirement of its Director.
- Facilitate partnerships with the Fransaskois community and support achievement of service goals under the French-language Services Policy through regular meetings of the OFLC Department Liaison Network. [2005-06 planned result]
  - The OFLC Intragovernmental Liaison Network met three times in 2005-2006 and contributed to the development of the Implementation Guidelines and the Strategic Plan under the Canada-Saskatchewan Agreement on French-language Services.
- Collaborate with federal, provincial and territorial counterparts on establishing mechanisms to facilitate joint/multilateral French-language services initiatives. [2005-06 planned result]
  - OFLC participated in the creation of a joint federal-provincial Bilingual Service Centre conceptual model that has garnered support from the Francophone community and the Government of Canada. Conceptual model will need to be articulated in a detailed implementation plan for Saskatchewan in the next fiscal year.
  - Saskatchewan chaired both the ministerial and public servant components of the Ministerial Conference on the Canadian Francophonie seeking to establish greater cooperation between provincial and territorial partners and the Government of Canada on issues related to French-language services.
- Ensure effective use of funding provided under a renewed Promotion of Official Languages Agreement for provincial French-language services initiatives. [2005-06 planned result]
  - Saskatchewan negotiated and signed the Canada-Saskatchewan Agreement on French-language Services with the Government of Canada for a total shared investment of $5.2 million between 2005 and 2009. The renewed Agreement also

contains a strategic plan tying funding to priorities for service delivery, therefore ensuring targeted spending and efficient use of resources.

Measurement Results

Per cent of survey respondents indicating that they are familiar with the OFLC and the services it offers (broken down by stakeholder group).

Baseline - December 2003	2004-05 actual results achieved as at March 31, 2005	2005-06 actual results achieved as at March 31, 2006
Federal government – 77%	Federal government – 100%	Federal government – 67%
Provincial government – 90%	Provincial government – 98%	Provincial government – 100%
Francophone community – 85%	Francophone community – 89%	Francophone community – 82%

Data source: OFLC administered questionnaire sent to main stakeholders, including all Fransaskois community organizations, provincial departments and agencies, and federal government offices in Saskatchewan.

The level of awareness of key stakeholders was determined to be one of two sets of data that were the most accessible, affordable and relevant. This data is linked to the objective because the effectiveness of OFLC's work as a central co-ordinating agency is key to enhancing the delivery of French-language services in the province. In order for the OFLC to be effective in this role, all stakeholders must first be aware of and understand the OFLC's function.

The OFLC interacts on a regular basis with three sets of key stakeholders: Fransaskois community organizations, provincial civil servants, and federal employees in Saskatchewan. The OFLC works with provincial departments and agencies and the Fransaskois community to align opportunities for service enhancement with identified needs. The OFLC also pursues opportunities with federal counterparts, given that the federal government remains an important partner for French-language initiatives in the province.

The OFLC will continue to consult with its stakeholder groups through regular meetings of the OFLC Intragovernmental Liaison Network (a network made up of provincial government representatives) and the Joint Liaison Committee (a committee made up of Francophone community representatives and provincial government employees). In addition to this regular interaction, the OFLC is confident that as the implementation of the French-language Services Policy progresses, the awareness level of stakeholders with the OFLC will increase.

Per cent of survey respondents indicating that they are satisfied with the quality of service(s) they receive from the OFLC (broken down by stakeholder group).

Baseline - December 2003	2004-05 actual results achieved as at March 31, 2005	2005-06 actual results achieved as at March 31, 2006
Federal government – 54%	Federal government – 71%	Federal government – 67%
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Francophone community – 46%	Francophone community – 74%	Francophone community – 57%

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The level of satisfaction of key stakeholders is the second of the two sets of data that were the most accessible, affordable and relevant. It represents another element needed for the OFLC to be effective in its central co-ordinating role. Stakeholders must see OFLC involvement as value-added and this can be measured by their level of satisfaction with the services provided.

The OFLC will continue to facilitate and organize meetings between various provincial government organizations and the Francophone community. As well, the OFLC will continue to meet regularly with the OFLC Intragovernmental Liaison Network and the Joint Liaison Committee. In addition to maintaining and enhancing this liaison role, the OFLC will continue its primary role of providing a quality translation service to the provincial government.

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Goal 2

Saskatchewan's social, economic, and constitutional interests are advanced, and its values are recognized and reflected, within a strong, united Canadian federation and within the international community.

Objective 1. Saskatchewan makes maximum use of intergovernmental instruments and fora to ensure that developments within Canadian federalism are: respectful of the constitution; enable the Province to fulfill its responsibilities to citizens; and advance provincial policy priorities and interests.

Within the federation, the actions and policies of the federal government, and other governments, impact on Saskatchewan. It is important that Saskatchewan manage its intergovernmental relations in a fashion that impacts positively on these actions and policies, while at the same time supporting provincial interests and objectives, and minimizing risks and costs to the province.

In 2005-06, Saskatchewan used intergovernmental forums to:

- negotiate a landmark agreement to improve the quality of life for Aboriginal people;
- improve early learning and child care services in the province; and,
- improve labour market training opportunities. The new federal government is not proceeding to implement these initiatives.

One key intergovernmental success story was the work done in raising the issue of crystal meth addiction at the Western Premiers' Conference and at the Council of the Federation summer meeting. Since then, substantive progress has been made, including increased and more effective treatment options, heightened enforcement and new controls on the sale of ephedrine and pseudoephedrine.

Key Results

- Provide strategic intergovernmental advice and support, to advance Saskatchewan's priorities and interests in the following areas:
  - developing an agenda for a successful First Ministers' Meeting on Aboriginal Issues that will result in concrete measures to improve the social and economic well-being of Aboriginal people;
  - developing a federal-provincial-territorial national child care program;
  - monitoring the implementation of the "Ten-Year Plan to Strengthen Health Care" and the Aboriginal Health Blueprint; and
  - monitoring the implementation of the interim Equalization formula for 2004-05 and 2005-06 and the development and implementation of a new Equalization formula. [2005-06 planned result]

– The First Ministers' Meeting on Aboriginal Issues was a success. The result was an unprecedented commitment by First Ministers and Aboriginal leaders to close the gap in quality of life between Aboriginal people and other Canadians. The agreed-to approach was focused on results and based on intergovernmental collaboration. Moreover, the federal government committed to increasing its spending for Aboriginal issues, including off-reserve. However, the election of a new government at the federal level has put the implementation of these commitments on hold.

– The new federal government has also cancelled agreements by the previous federal government on early learning and child care.

– The implementation of the Ten-Year Plan to Strengthen Health Care has continued in 2005-06 with the publication of benchmarks for wait times for certain procedures. The Aboriginal Health Blueprint was an integral part of the First Ministers' Meeting on Aboriginal Issues.

- Saskatchewan has continued to aggressively advance its proposal for a fair Equalization formula that excludes non-renewable resource revenues and that is based on a 10-province standard. The new federal government has promised to exclude non-renewable resource revenues from the formula.

- Work with lead departments and agencies in the development and advancement of Saskatchewan's strategic policy positions associated with a range of economic, human resource and sustainable development initiatives set out in the federal Throne Speech. These include climate change, regional/sectoral development, the federal government's New Deal for Cities and Communities, a new Workplace Skills Strategy, regulatory reform, the Green Economy, and services to Aboriginal peoples. [2005-06 planned result]

  - The department has supported the work of other departments related to infrastructure, climate change, skills training, rural development, and agricultural income support.

- Staff and coordinate the preparation of material for the Premier's participation in the First Ministers' Meetings, Council of the Federation Meetings, The Western Premiers' Conference, The Western Governors' Association, and other bilateral meetings with federal, provincial and international counterparts. [2005-06 planned result]

  - Saskatchewan played a leadership role at the 2005 Western Premiers' Conference and at the 2005 Council of the Federation summer meeting in raising awareness of the dangers associated with crystal meth. As a result of this work, many provinces have restricted access to key ingredients used to produce crystal meth and have increased resources for the prevention and treatment of addictions. The federal government has increased the criminal penalties for crystal meth offences.

- Improve the strategic focus of the Province's international relations by:

  - working with departments, agencies and key stakeholders on developing and implementing a new government-wide strategic policy/program framework;

  - developing and implementing proactive positioning initiatives for Saskatchewan in key priority countries, starting with the U.S.; and

  - supporting the Premier's participation on Team Saskatchewan missions abroad. [2005-06 planned result]

  - Strategic Framework: Based on an inventory of Departments'/Agencies' international interests and activities, in 2005-06 the Department identified, prioritized and recommended "target" country-clusters for future international missions by the Premier and/or Minister.

  - Country Positioning Initiatives: (a) U.S./Mexico – coordinated provincial involvement in the trilateral *Security and Prosperity Partnership of North America*; supported the Premier's participation in the Western Premiers and Governors meeting in Colorado; co-hosted the Midwestern Legislative Conference in Regina (the first ever outside the U.S.); managed border-state (i.e. Montana, North Dakota) exchanges by both executive and legislative officials ; (b) Ukraine – facilitated completion of a report by the Advisory Committee on Saskatchewan-Ukraine Relations on next-steps in our bilateral relationship; (c) South Africa –successfully completed an eight-year bilateral "governance" exchange program with Free State.

  - Premier's missions: supported the Premier's participation on economic missions to Asia and the U.S.

- Humanitarian and Development Assistance: responded positively to requests for disaster relief in the wake of the South Asian earthquake and Central American floods.

Measurement Results
A performance measure related to this objective was under development during 2005-06.

Objective 2. Working within the scope of its jurisdictional responsibilities, Saskatchewan uses immigration as a tool to support its economic and labour market objectives, and works with other governments, stakeholders and communities to help in the effective settlement of immigrants and refugees.

As in other small provinces, Saskatchewan's share of immigration to Canada has dropped significantly over the past two decades. While immigration is primarily a federal responsibility, the province can take actions to attract more skilled workers and economic immigrants, primarily through the Saskatchewan Immigrant Nominee Program (SINP). This can contribute to meeting Saskatchewan's labour market needs, its economic development, and its diversity. Under the SINP, Saskatchewan can define its own immigration priorities and selection criteria, and attract the type of immigrants it needs to address labour market and economic goals. Saskatchewan nominates prospective immigrants to the federal government who are reviewed by the appropriate federal visa post for health, security and criminality concerns. If no concerns are found, the visa post issues a permanent residence visa to the applicant enabling him or her to move to Saskatchewan. The department also works with service organizations and other federal and provincial departments to coordinate efforts to help settle and retain immigrants and refugees when they arrive.

Our initial target for 2005-06 was 400 nominations, and our actual number was 454. The variance can be attributed to growth in the Skilled Worker and long-haul trucker applications.

Key Results
- Address labour market needs and economic development opportunities through SINP by:
  - increasing Saskatchewan employers' awareness of the SINP and International recruitment opportunities, including overseas emigration fairs and overseas training or employment institutions;
  - expanding the SNIP health professions category to include all skilled health occupations;
  - increasing the types of businesses eligible under the SINP Business Category;
  - considering options for continuing and/or expanding the Saskatchewan Trucking Association pilot project for long-haul truckers, and, in response to industry sector interest, considering additional pilot projects in semi-skilled occupations; developing greater community capacity to attract and settle immigrant skilled workers by introducing a Community Support Plan into the SINP. [2005-06 planned result] and [2005-06 Performance Plan Summary]

- Expansion of the Immigration Branch by $749,000 ($2.4M and 24 FTE's annualized) was announced in follow-up to the 2005 Throne Speech commitment to increase immigration to Saskatchewan to 5,000 immigrants per year by 2008.

- Nominations under the SINP for 2005-06 were 454, almost double the total for 2004-05.

- A new Family Members category under the SINP was announced on December 5, 2005. This will allow permanent residents to nominate family members who have a strong likelihood of becoming successfully established in Saskatchewan.

- The Skilled Worker category was expanded in January 2005 increasing direct coverage of the Saskatchewan

labour market from approximately two per cent to 95 per cent of jobs.

- Expanded SINP health professions to include all skilled health occupations (October 7, 2005).
- Preparations made for announcement early in 2006-07 of a new Entrepreneur category, replacing the existing Business category.
- The Saskatchewan Trucking Association Long-Haul Trucker pilot project was expanded from the initial three firms to all eligible trucking firms in Saskatchewan. A total of 293 truck drivers were recruited under the pilot project.
- Increased efforts to market the SINP directly to employers.
- As part of increasing SINP promotion, mailed information on the new Skilled Worker category to 900 businesses and stakeholders.
- Continued to develop the SINP database, which will be in operation in early 2006-07.
- Worked with employers and community groups in 10 communities to develop Community Support Plans to address the settlement needs of nominees and their families.

- Work with federal government, other provincial departments and immigration stakeholders agencies to increase the benefits of immigration to Saskatchewan by:
  - implementing a Canada-Saskatchewan Contribution Agreement for the delivery of Enhanced Language Training (ELT) services in Saskatchewan in 2005-06, based on planning and development work and consultations completed in 2004-05. [2005-06 planned result]
  - implementing an immigrant internship project with community partners to establish work opportunities for immigrants to help advance in the labour market.
  - supporting an initial implementation phase of the project with the Saskatchewan Association of Immigrant Settlement and Integration Agencies (SAISIA), to design and implement a service model to better integrate, coordinate and enhance settlement services. [2005-06 planned result]
  - re-negotiating the Canada-Saskatchewan Immigration Agreement with the federal government and negotiate amendments to the Canada-Saskatchewan Agreement on Provincial Nominees to remove limitations on the maximum number of nominees. [2005-06 planned result]
  - working with Citizenship and Immigration Canada (CIC) and the Assssemblée communautaire fransaskoise (ACF) to increase immigration to Francophone communities.
  - implementing and monitoring the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with CIC for a second year work permit pilot project with Saskatchewan Learning and post-secondary institutions and negotiating an additional MOU on foreign students with CIC.
  - working with other departments and the federal government to enhance presentation of information on Saskatchewan immigration opportunities, settlement services and employment opportunities through federal, provincial and non-government Internet sites. [2005-06 planned result]

- The 2005-06 budget included $600,000 in new funding, including $400,000 to deliver federally cost-shared ELT services and $150,000 to implement an Immigrant Internship Pilot project (IIP) that will facilitate connections between immigrant and refugee job seekers and employers.

- A new multi-year Canada-Saskatchewan Contribution Agreement for ELT services was completed, effective September 2005. Under the Agreement, the Province will coordinate delivery and development work under the ELT initiative in Saskatchewan. The Agreement covers the periods 2005-06 through 2007-08. The ELT initiative will assist immigrants in transferring their knowledge and skills into the Saskatchewan labour force by providing labour market orientation and language training, and facilitating work experience and career mentoring opportunities.

- ELT pilot projects in Regina and Saskatoon started in December 2005. The pilot projects will facilitate labour market integration for recent skilled immigrants to the province by providing: employment needs assessments; language training for work at an intermediate to advanced level; Canadian work experience; career mentoring opportunities; and orientation to the Saskatchewan labour market.

- The IIP pilot project is being offered in Saskatoon in conjunction with the ELT pilot project in that city. The IIP initiative provides language and employment related services to immigrants who do not meet requirements for participation in ELT pilot projects.

- Professional development training for ELT/IIP service providers was completed in December 2005.

- The ELT and IIP pilot projects served between 50-60 immigrants in 2005-06.

- The 2005-06 budget included $50,000 to enhance settlement agency assessment and referral services.

- In October 2005, additional funding of $50,000 was approved to fully implement the Enhanced Assessment and Referral Project with settlement agencies.

- Settlement agencies submitted implementation plans concerning enhancements to their assessment and referral services, and enhancements to their information management systems. The implementation plans will inform work in 2006-07.

- Signed the Canada-Saskatchewan Immigration Agreement in May 2005, which included the Canada-Saskatchewan Agreement on Provincial Nominees as an annex. The agreement removed any cap on nominations in place of the province setting an annual nomination target.

- Worked with the Francophone community to implement initiatives under the CIC Strategic Framework on increasing immigration to Francophone communities in Saskatchewan.

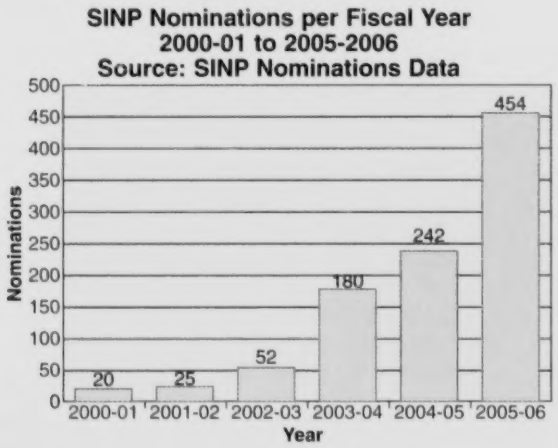
- Implemented a MOU with CIC on the 2nd-year Post-Graduate Work Permit Program for international students.

- Negotiated a MOU with CIC on the Off Campus Work Permit Program for International students.

- Implemented the Saskatchewan link for the "Going to Canada" web portal.

Measurement Results

Number of provincial nominees per year under the Saskatchewan Immigration Nominee Program (SINP)



Data source: SINP program data.

The SINP is Saskatchewan's only directly administered immigration program. All other immigrants enter under federally administered immigration classes. Saskatchewan's level of nominees is affected by the level of growth and job creation in the Saskatchewan economy, and by competition from other provinces and countries that are also facing labour market shortages and attempting to attract immigrants. Take-up of the program is also affected by the length of federal case processing times, which can make it difficult to meet the needs of Saskatchewan employers in a timely manner.

We will continue to expand the SINP in response to feedback from employers or industry associations. Opportunities to create linkages between employers in Saskatchewan and overseas immigration recruitment opportunities will continue to be pursued. Investments in immigrant services such as Enhanced Language Training, the Immigrant Internship Project and other services delivered by third party agencies or community-based organizations will be made to ensure that immigrants have a positive settlement experience. We will work with communities to help them welcome and settle nominees and to provide effective services and a welcoming environment for all immigrants to Saskatchewan.

Objective 3. Market access for Saskatchewan's exports is increased in a manner consistent with the government's economic, social, environmental and Aboriginal development policies/strategies.

Saskatchewan is currently the second most export-oriented province in Canada. In 2005, about 70 per cent of all the goods and services produced in the province was exported, either internationally (41%) or domestically (29%). Given the modern scope of international and domestic trade policy negotiations, they can facilitate the achievement of a wide range of objectives listed under the four pillars of the province's new economic strategy, *The Saskatchewan Action Plan for the Economy (2005).*

The *Action Plan* contains two specific trade policy objectives, as follows:

- work with the federal government to restore free market access to the U.S. for our producers and exporters of cattle, beef and wheat;

- secure a more level international playing field for the province's agricultural producers and exporters through the World Trade Organization (WTO) negotiations.

In 2005-06, substantial progress was made on both of these specific objectives: free access to the U.S. market was restored for wheat, and for cattle and beef from animals under 30 months of age (although full market access probably won't be restored until 2007); and, there were encouraging signs in the WTO agricultural negotiations that a significantly more level playing field for our producers/exporters was achievable.

Otherwise, negotiations on new trade and investment agreements of importance to Saskatchewan's trade and investment communities continued with South Korea and the European Union. The trade agenda under the new *Security and Prosperity Partnership of North America* was advanced, and there was significant progress made on the comprehensive renovation of the domestic *Agreement on Internal Trade.*

Key Results

- Identify/achieve Saskatchewan's objectives in priority negotiating forums internationally [i.e. The World Trade Organization (WTO), The North American Free Trade Agreement of the America (NAFTA), the proposed Canada-South Korea Free Trade Agreement] and domestically [i.e., The Agreement on Internal Trade (AIT)]. [2005-06 planned result] and [2005-06 Performance Plan Summary]

International Trade Policy

- WTO: Advanced Saskatchewan's negotiating objectives in the run-up to, and while part of the Canadian delegation at, the World Trade Organization Ministerial Meeting in Hong Kong in December 2005 (negotiations are ongoing).

- Regionals/Bilaterals: (a) Canada-South Korea Free Trade Agreement – Defined and advanced Saskatchewan's key market access objectives with the federal government in advance of the launch of the negotiation of this Free Trade Agreement (FTA); (b) Canada-European Union (EU) Trade and Investment Enhancement Agreement (TIEA) – Defined and advanced Saskatchewan's objectives related to the TIEA, which was initiated in May 2005, with Ottawa; (c) NAFTA – Defined and advanced Saskatchewan's trade policy objectives related to the new trilateral work plan under the *Security and Prosperity Partnership of North America* (negotiations are ongoing in all cases).

Internal Trade Policy

- AIT: (a) Saskatchewan negotiated accession to the 6th Protocol of Amendment on Crown procurement; (b) Saskatchewan continued to lead an F/P/T team looking at ways to improve the AIT's dispute resolution mechanism, and otherwise remained fully engaged in all other Working Groups in the Council of the Federation's work plan on internal trade (the work plan is ongoing).

Other

- The department was a key partner in the production and public release of Saskatchewan's first *State of Trade* publication;

- The department contributed to the Premier's agricultural trade policy interventions in Washington on the WTO agricultural negotiations and the next U.S. Farm Bill.

- Successfully defend/advance Saskatchewan measures/interests in priority trade disputes (i.e., beef/cattle, oilseeds, softwood lumber, live swine, wheat). [2005-06 planned result] and [2005-06 Performance Plan Summary]

International Trade Disputes

- Saskatchewan aggressively advanced and defended its interests in key international trade disputes involving wheat, softwood lumber and cattle/beef. In 2005-06, the wheat dispute was successfully resolved in Canada's and Saskatchewan's favour, while significant access to the U.S. market for live cattle and beef was recaptured. Softwood lumber litigation and negotiations were ongoing.

Internal Trade Disputes

- To the benefit of our canola seed/oil sectors, Saskatchewan formally intervened in successful AIT challenges of Quebec's measure related to the colour of margarine and Ontario's sales restrictions on dairy blends. Quebec continues to study if/how to comply with the panel's recommendation, while Ontario's claim to have complied remains under contest.

Measurement Results

A performance measure related to this objective was under development during 2005-06.

The ability of the department to directly control the outcomes in international trade/investment negotiations and/or disputes related to increasing market access for Saskatchewan exports is extremely limited. Internationally, the province is not at any of the negotiating tables and can, like the other 12 provincial/territorial governments in Canada, only advise our federal negotiators about

Saskatchewan's interests. Domestically, Saskatchewan is only one of 14 jurisdictions at the negotiating table.

Goal 3

Respectful, effective municipal-provincial relationships that strengthen the quality of local governance for the benefit of Saskatchewan residents.

Objective 1. Department services and provincial funding that strategically assist municipal governments in governing and meeting the needs of their residents.

Municipalities benefit from provincial advisory and technical assistance and funding in order to meet the needs of their residents. The department works with SARM, SUMA, the Rural Municipal Administrators Association of Saskatchewan (RMAAS), the Urban Municipal Administrators Association of Saskatchewan (UMAAS), and New North-SANC Services Inc. to assist municipalities to meet the needs of their residents. The department assists municipalities in the key areas of building municipal leadership and administrative skills, compliance with legislation, regulations and financial requirements and developing community land use plans and zoning bylaws. It also provides funding to address critical municipal infrastructure needs and for municipal services.

Significant new funding was committed that assist municipalities in providing services to their residents. This includes revenue sharing, the Community Share 2006 Program, and federal funding. Also, workshops, training sessions and advice have been provided to councillors and administrators to improve local decision-making.

Key Results

- Implement the new Canada-Saskatchewan Municipal Rural Infrastructures Fund (CSMRIF) and individual projects under the Canada Strategic Infrastructure Fund (CSIF) and pay out the remaining $26 million dollars under the CSIP to previously approved projects to address critical infrastructure needs. The CSMRIF will provide $38 million of provincial funding over four years to match federal funding, with participating communities contributing one-half of the project costs, for a total potential investment of $152 million. In 2005-06, $9.5 million will be allocated under the CSMRIF. [2005-06 planned results] and [2005-06 Performance Plan Summary]

Provincial Funding:

- $97.2 million under Revenue Sharing was paid out to municipalities, which included a one-time additional supplementary payment of $12.2 million.
- $32 million of new unconditional funding was provided to municipalities for capital projects under the Community Share 2006 Program.
- $2.65 million was provided to municipalities under Transit for the Disabled.
- $10.8 million was provided to municipalities under Grants-in-lieu of Property Taxes.
- Saskatchewan provided $1.4 million to the Saskatoon Riverbank Redevelopment project through the Meewasin Valley Authority. The project is complete.

Federal Funding:

- A bilateral federal New Deal agreement was signed by the federal and provincial governments in August 2005 that will provide $147.7 million of federal gas tax revenues over five years to municipalities to enhance environmental sustainability. In 2005-06, Saskatchewan received $17.7 million in federal New Deal funding. Approximately 15 per cent of the municipalities submitted an infrastructure investment plan and $8 million in payments were made to municipalities.
- In 2005-06, under the CSMRIF program, 94 projects worth $97.9 million were approved for funding for 2005-06 and 2006-07 with commitments of $14.6

million from both the federal and provincial governments. By year-end, $4.3 million in federal and provincial funding was paid out to municipalities.

- Under the CSIF, the Saskatchewan government provided $2 million to the multi-purpose building at the Regina Exhibition Park, which was completed.

- On May 13, 2005, the Saskatoon and Regina Urban Development Agreements were announced. These agreements will provide $10 million over five years for each of Regina and Saskatoon to address urban development priorities.

- In March 2006, a bilateral federal Public Transit agreement was signed that will provide $12.5 million in federal funds to the province to allocate to municipalities for public transit investments that support environmental objectives.

- Under the CSIP, $14.4 million in federal and provincial funding was spent on 77 projects. All funding under the CSIP has been allocated. Payments under CSIP will be extended over an additional two years, to the end of the 2007-08 fiscal year, to allow for completion of the projects.

- Address critical northern municipal infrastructure needs by:

  - providing funding under the Northern Water and Sewer Program ($6.3 million is available, of which $4 million is from CSIP) and the Northern Emergency Water and Sewer Repair Program and for engineering water and sewer advice to northern communities ($395,000), and incremental northern revenue sharing funding for water and sewer projects ($822,000); and

  - establishing and implementing a long-term strategy to address northern water and sewer needs. [2005-06 planned result]

- In 2005-06, $4.1 million in provincial funding was spent under the Northern Water and Sewer Program in 24 communities, of which $1.9 million was CSIP funding.

- Under the Northern Emergency Program, $473,094 was spent on northern water and sewer system repairs that arose during the year. Also, $531,959 was spent on engineering operating and maintenance advice to northern communities on water and sewer systems.

- Water and sewer system assessments were completed in most of the northern communities.

- The department began work on the development of a strategy to address longer-term critical northern water and sewer needs.

- Allocate $85 million in Revenue Sharing to municipalities. [2005-06 planned results]

  - $97.2 million under Revenue Sharing was paid out to municipalities, which included a one-time additional supplementary payment of $12.2 million.

- Implement the Regina and Saskatoon urban development agreements to address priority areas based on intergovernmental co-ordination. [2005-06 planned results] and [2005-06 Performance Plan Summary]

  - On May 13, 2005, the Saskatoon and Regina Urban Development Agreements were announced. These agreements will provide $10 million over five years for each of Regina and Saskatoon to address urban development priorities. The provincial government will contribute $5 million, the two cities will each contribute $2.5 million and the federal government will contribute $10 million. Specific projects in Regina and Saskatoon are currently under review.

- Implement the Northern Revenue Sharing Trust Account (NRSTA) strategic plan. [2005-06 planned result]

For the NRSTA:

  - a strategic plan was implemented in 2005 and updated for 2006;

  - a business plan was prepared and approved for 2006;

  - a policy and procedures manual was completed and approved; and

  - the 2005 financial statements were completed and tabled on time.

- Establish and implement as a pilot project a Northern Advisory Planning Commission in the La Ronge area that will be responsible for land use issues. [2005-06 planned result]

  - The Advisory Northern Planning Commission was formally established in January 2006 and two meetings were held by the end of the fiscal year to discuss land use issues.

- Review Northern Revenue Sharing distribution formula for municipalities. [2005-06 planned result]

  - This review was not completed as a result of other department priorities. It will be undertaken in 2006-07.

- Assist municipalities to comply with legislation, regulations and financial reporting. [2005-06 planned result]

The Department:

  - consulted on and approved 17 new development plans, basic planning statements and zoning bylaws, and 326 related amendments;

  - continued to work with municipalities to meet financial reporting accounting standards and file reports on time and electronically;

  - continued to provide advisory and planning advice, including meeting with the northern municipal administrators and municipal councils to assist them with operations.

- Build municipal capacity by enhancing municipal governance, planning and administration learning opportunities through:

    - the municipal leadership development program;

    - providing planning, administrative and technical advice. [2005-06 planned result]

  - Through a partnership management committee with the municipal sector, coordinated by the department, 25 Municipal Leadership Development Program workshops were delivered to 695 municipal officials.

  - In partnership with the municipal sector, *The Municipalities Act* Preparedness Committee was established and completed development and implementation of an education and training program to support an effective transition to the new legislation. Six full-day training sessions and 15 other information presentations and workshops were held.

  - In partnership with New North, the department offered workshops to municipal administrators and elected officials in northern communities on budgeting, tax enforcement, assessment, capital planning, and cash flow management.

  - The University of Regina launched in 2005-06 an Advanced Certificate in Local Government Authority (LGA) and now allows the existing certificate LGA courses to be used as credits toward a university

degree. The department and the municipal associations are partners with the University of Regina in these programs through an Advisory Committee to the University. The Advanced Certificate in LGA is designed for current municipal administrators pursuing professional development or students planning a career in the field.

- Assist and support the Great Sand Hills Planning District Commission and affiliated municipalities with enhancing local land use administration processes to support the recommendations of the Great Sand Hills Lands Use Strategy Review. [2005-06 planned result]

The Department:

- provided funding to support the commission's operations;
- participated in commission meetings to provide planning and development advice; and
- assisted in the Regional Environmental Study for the Great Sand Hills.

- Focus providing services to municipal officials and the general public through web-based resources, including:
  - on-line planning and advisory information;
  - on-line regulatory reviews, and
  - portals to other information and services. [2005-06 planned result]
- The division website was redesigned.
- 40 web-based resource publications and materials were developed to support transition to *The Municipalities Act*. Also, existing web-based resource materials were updated to reflect the new legislation.
- Information on *The Planning and Development Act, 1983* was updated to reflect legislative changes to the Act during the year.
- On-line application processes for the CSMRIF and financial reporting were made available on the department website.
- On-line information on the department's financial assistance programs was updated.

Measurement Results

Number and percent of municipalities whose financial reporting statements are compliant with the Public Sector Accounting Board (PSAB) standards, filed on time and electronically (broken down by southern and northern municipalities).

	2002 Reports	2003 Reports	2004 Reports
Southern Municipalities			
• Compliance with PSAB	538 (72%)	795 (100%)	788 (100%)
• Filed on time	745 (93%)	778 (98%)	676 (86%)
• Filed electronically	0	0	0
Northern Municipalities			
• Compliance with PSAB	0	16 (67%)	10 (41%)
• Filed on time	7 (30%)	9 (38%)	9 (38%)
• Filed electronically	0	0	0

Data source: The financial statements data file maintained by the department. The financial statements are provided by the municipalities.

Progress on this performance measure is mixed. For the southern municipalities, 100 per cent continued to meet the PSAB standards. Reporting on time declined somewhat and, as in the past, no reports were filed electronically. For northern municipalities, fewer met the PSAB standards, the same number of municipalities filed on time and, as in the past, no reports were filed electronically.

Financial information is to be compliant with PSAB standards. The Canadian Institute of Chartered Accountants sets PSAB accounting standards for public sector financial reporting. The Provincial Auditor has repeatedly called for these standards. Filing information that meets the PSAB standards and is on time contributes to timely municipal accountability, transparency to ratepayers, and

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good local government. Electronic information is more efficient. This information is also used by the department to allocate funding to the municipalities.

The department monitors the financial information to ensure it is filed in accordance with the legislation, follows up on missing reports, and assists the municipalities in filing the required information. Training is provided to municipal administrators on financial reporting. To encourage municipalities to file electronically, on-line financial reporting has been made available on the department's website. Penalties can be applied if there is non-compliance. Some smaller municipalities have more difficulty meeting the requirements because of lack of capacity and staff turnover.

Number and percentage of municipalities with planning bylaws in place.

2003	2004	2005
416 (51%)	456 (56%).	475 (59%)

Data source: Manual files in the department's Community Planning Branch.

Progress on this performance measure continues to be made, with more municipalities having planning bylaws in place.

A community plan can provide a vision of community goals, objectives and principles that can contribute to building stronger communities. While municipalities are not required to have community planning bylaws, effective planning can co-ordinate infrastructure and services, support accountability and transparency, encourage economic development and promote sustainable environmental resource management.

The department is responsible for promoting and overseeing community planning and development policies in Saskatchewan. Some municipalities may not have the capacity or resources to develop and administer municipal planning bylaws. The department provides training sessions, workshops and guidance to municipalities on development and zoning issues.

Objective 2. A respectful and positive relationship between the provincial government and municipal partners and other interest groups.

A respectful and positive relationship is needed between the provincial government and its municipal partners and other interest groups to be able to work together in a collaborative manner to ensure that the needs of Saskatchewan residents are met. The department works with Saskatchewan Urban Municipalities Association (SUMA), Saskatchewan Association of Rural Municipalities (SARM), New North-SANC Services Inc., Provincial Association of Resort Communities (PARCS), Rural Municipal Administrators Association of Saskatchewan (RMAAS), Urban Municipal Administrators Association of Saskatchewan (UMAAS), the cities and other organizations to ensure mechanisms are in place for open communication.

A survey in February 2004 indicated that the municipal sector was very satisfied with its relationship with the department. In 2005-06, this relationship has been positively reinforced through the use of the Municipal Forum, working together on *The Municipalities Act*, review of *The Planning and Development Act, 1983* and agreements with the federal government for funding under the New Deal and for public transit.

Key Results

- Continue to negotiate and implement an agreement entered into with the federal government and the municipal sector on the federal New Deal for Cities and Communities to capture new federal funding for municipalities. [2005-06 planned result]

  - In October 2005, Saskatchewan received $17.7 million in federal New Deal funding. Eleven presentations were made across the province to inform urban, rural and northern municipalities of the program. About 15 per cent of the municipalities submitted an infrastructure plan and $8 million was paid out to municipalities.

- Review revenue sharing under the Municipal Forum. [2005-06 planned result]

- Four Municipal Forums were held to discuss matters such as Revenue Sharing, SARM and SUMA's "Clearing the Path" initiative, municipal and provincial review of liability provisions in municipal legislation, and the negotiations and program implementation of the New Deal Gas Tax and Public Transit funding programs, pursuant to bilateral agreements with the federal government.

- Restructure the Northern Roundtable meeting process to make it more effective for joint planning, consulting and decision making with northern municipalities. [2005-06 planned result]

  - Changes were made to improve the Northern Roundtable in terms of number and type of meetings. Two new semi-annual administrative consultations were held between department officials and the New North Executive Board and one Roundtable meeting was held between Cabinet ministers, department officials and 25 northern municipal leaders to discuss provincial government issues.

- Co-ordinate a minimum of three formal sessions of the Department-Municipal Steering Committee of Senior executives to develop programs, services and partnerships. [2005-06 planned result]

  - Three formal sessions of the Municipal Programs and Services Steering Committee were held to discuss matters such as progress of the Municipal Leadership Development Program Subcommittee and *The Municipalities Act* Preparedness Committee, and administrator succession planning.

- Continue to work with municipal partners to address municipal governance and administration issues. [2005-06 planned result]

  - The department provided support to SARM and SUMA in implementing the Clearing the Path initiative to develop sector-specific planning committees and a province-wide primary road system by assisting in workshops and providing advice.

  - Incremental funding was provided to SARM for its Voluntary Restructuring Assistance Fund.

  - The Guide to Voluntary Municipal Restructuring was revised to reflect *The Municipalities Act.*

Measurement Results

The level of satisfaction of municipal associations and larger cities with the department.

Baseline – February 2004	2005-06 actual results achieved as at March 31, 2006
78% were satisfied with the way the department shared information; 78% were satisfied with the department's formal and informal consultations; 82% were satisfied with the partnership and joint initiatives between the department and municipal partners; 86% were satisfied with the department's participation in municipal partners' events; and 84% were satisfied with the working relationship between the department and municipal partners.	Another survey was not undertaken as a result of its limited value in relation to the significant cost to conduct the survey. No results are therefore available for 2005-06. This performance measure has been eliminated in 2006-07.

Data source: Survey conducted by a consultant on behalf of the department.

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  - In October 2005, Saskatchewan received $17.7 million in federal New Deal funding. Eleven presentations were made across the province to inform urban, rural and northern municipalities of the program. About 15 per cent of the municipalities submitted an infrastructure plan and $8 million was paid out to municipalities.

- Review revenue sharing under the Municipal Forum. [2005-06 planned result]

- Four Municipal Forums were held to discuss matters such as Revenue Sharing, SARM and SUMA's "Clearing the Path" initiative, municipal and provincial review of liability provisions in municipal legislation, and the negotiations and program implementation of the New Deal Gas Tax and Public Transit funding programs, pursuant to bilateral agreements with the federal government.

- Restructure the Northern Roundtable meeting process to make it more effective for joint planning, consulting and decision making with northern municipalities. [2005-06 planned result]

  - Changes were made to improve the Northern Roundtable in terms of number and type of meetings. Two new semi-annual administrative consultations were held between department officials and the New North Executive Board and one Roundtable meeting was held between Cabinet ministers, department officials and 25 northern municipal leaders to discuss provincial government issues.

- Co-ordinate a minimum of three formal sessions of the Department-Municipal Steering Committee of Senior executives to develop programs, services and partnerships. [2005-06 planned result]

  - Three formal sessions of the Municipal Programs and Services Steering Committee were held to discuss matters such as progress of the Municipal Leadership Development Program Subcommittee and *The Municipalities Act* Preparedness Committee, and administrator succession planning.

- Continue to work with municipal partners to address municipal governance and administration issues. [2005-06 planned result]

  - The department provided support to SARM and SUMA in implementing the Clearing the Path initiative to develop sector-specific planning committees and a province-wide primary road system by assisting in workshops and providing advice.

  - Incremental funding was provided to SARM for its Voluntary Restructuring Assistance Fund.

  - The Guide to Voluntary Municipal Restructuring was revised to reflect *The Municipalities Act*.

Measurement Results

The level of satisfaction of municipal associations and larger cities with the department.

Baseline – February 2004	2005-06 actual results achieved as at March 31, 2006
78% were satisfied with the way the department shared information; 78% were satisfied with the department's formal and informal consultations; 82% were satisfied with the partnership and joint initiatives between the department and municipal partners; 86% were satisfied with the department's participation in municipal partners' events; and 84% were satisfied with the working relationship between the department and municipal partners.	Another survey was not undertaken as a result of its limited value in relation to the significant cost to conduct the survey. No results are therefore available for 2005-06. This performance measure has been eliminated in 2006-07.

Data source: Survey conducted by a consultant on behalf of the department.

The department's relationship with the municipal sector has been positively reinforced through the use of the Municipal Forum, working together on *The Municipalities Act*, review of *The Planning and Development Act, 1983* and agreements with the federal government for funding under the New Deal and for public transit.

Objective 3. A legislative framework that provides clear municipal and provincial responsibilities and balances local autonomy with provincial and public interests.

For efficient and effective government, it is important that the roles and responsibilities of local governments and the provincial government are clearly defined in legislation, local governments have the authority and flexibility to deal with local issues and provincial involvement is removed where there is no overriding provincial interest. At the same time, local governments should be accountable and public interests must be protected. The department consults with SARM, SUMA, RMAAS, UMAAS, New North-SANC, the cities and other organizations regarding legislative changes.

Progress in 2005-06 has been significant. Passing of *The Municipalities Act*, the work underway to renew *The Planning and Development Act, 1983* and the recently initiated comprehensive review of The *Northern Municipalities Act* will further clarify municipal and provincial responsibilities and balance local autonomy with provincial and public interests.

Key Results

- Enact and implement *The Municipalities Act* to establish the municipal legislative framework for rural Saskatchewan. [2005-06 planned result]

  - The new *The Municipalities Act* was passed in the fall 2005 legislative session and became effective January 1, 2006. *The Municipalities Regulations* were also established and became effective January 1, 2006.

- As part of the renewal of *The Planning and Development Act, 1983*, amend the Act in 2005 to address city issues regarding increasing planning autonomy and flexibility to match their capacity, and implement amendments. [2005-06 planned result]

  - Legislation was passed in the fall 2005 legislative session.

- Undertake phase two of the renewal of *The Planning and Development Act, 1983*, to establish provincial interests, encourage regional planning and require municipalities to establish land use plans and bylaws to protect water sources. [2005-06 planned result]

  - The department undertook major stakeholder consultations on *The Planning and Development Act, 1983* that include development of provincial interests, encouraging regional planning and establishing municipal land use bylaws that protect water sources.

- Review *The Northern Municipalities Act* to modernize and standardize it as much as possible with *The Municipalities Act*. [2005-06 planned result]

  - A comprehensive review process has been initiated in co-operation with northern municipal leaders. The focus of the review will be to ensure that northern communities are provided with a renewed and effective legislative framework, appropriate for northern needs and priorities.

- Enact and implement a new Lloydminster Charter that provides the city with natural person powers and spheres of jurisdiction and establishes public accountability requirements, similar to *The Cities Act*. [2005-06 planned result]

  - With the agreement of Alberta and the City of Lloydminster, the completion of work on the Charter was delayed to enable Saskatchewan to undertake reviews of municipal liability provisions and administrative review bodies. Work on the Charter should be completed in 2006-07.

- Implement regulations on public reporting of pricing and capital investment information on municipal waterworks that are to be effective July 1, 2006. [2005-06 planned result]

- Regulations were established in December 2005 and are effective July 1, 2006.

- Amend *The Local Government Election Act* in respect to new local circumstances caused by school board amalgamations. [2005-06 planned result]

  - Legislation was passed in the spring 2006 legislative session and is in effect.

- Complete a review of the provisions in the various municipal acts concerning liability. [2005-06 planned result]

  - A review was undertaken and preparations were made for undertaking consultations with the municipal sector and other parties.

Measurement Results
A performance measure related to this objective was under development during 2005-06.

Objective 4. A property tax system that is fair, transparent and understandable and reflects provincial interests.

Each year, approximately $1.1 billion is collected by municipalities in municipal and school property taxes. It is important that the property tax system is fair and that Saskatchewan people understand the property tax system and how their property taxes are determined. The department works with SUMA, SARM, UMAAS, RMAAS, SAMA and commercial and residential groups to ensure appropriate tax tools are available to the municipalities and to set percentages of value for revaluations, and to provide advice to government on the funding, structure, transparency and accountability of SAMA.

Significant progress was made in 2005-06, as most of the Saskatchewan population now has full access to detailed assessment data from assessment service providers without having to file an appeal. Also, work has been undertaken to develop a long-term sustainable financial plan for SAMA.

Key Results

- Monitor new SAMA funding and governance changes to ensure a sustainable and stable assessment system, as recommended by the Boughen Commission. [2005-06 planned results]

  - The department and Learning are working with SAMA, municipalities and school boards to develop a long-term sustainable financial and funding plan.

- Implement changes from the review of the revaluation cycle and where the audit function should reside, to address the Boughen Commission's concerns and ensure quality assessments. [2005-06 planned results]

  - The audit function issue has been resolved, with this function reporting directly to the SAMA Board. The revaluation cycle remains under review as an initial round of consultations provided no consensus on what, if any, changes should be made.

- Continue to monitor local government property tax tools in conjunction with implementation of the 2005 revaluation and collaborate with the Department of Learning and other departments to develop recommendations regarding property tax tools. [2005-06 planned results]

  - The department has not received any complaints concerning tax tools since the 2005 revaluation was implemented. Some changes were made to simplify the system. The lack of authority for municipalities outside of cities to establish subclasses continues to be presented to government as an issue to examine.

- Assist Saskatchewan Learning with the implementation of education property tax relief. [2005-06 planned results]

  - The department assisted Learning in providing $55 million in education property tax relief to all property taxpayers in both the 2005 and 2006 taxation years and in developing sustainable education property

tax relief for agricultural land starting in 2006. An incremental $52.8 million is being provided for relief for agricultural land, achieving on average a 60/40 provincial/local government education funding split for agricultural land. The department and Learning are working on a long-term solution for property tax relief.

- Continue to monitor changes to improve the integrity and reliability of the assessment system and property tax system and recommend any needed legislative changes. [2005-06 planned results]

  - The required legislative changes were passed in the spring 2006 legislative session.

Measurement Results

Percentage of people that have full access to detailed assessment data without having to file an appeal (subject to confidentiality legislation).

Baseline – 2003	2004-05 actual results achieved as at March 31, 2005	2005-06 actual results achieved as at March 31, 2006
18%	18%	98%

Data source: Survey conducted by the department.

Significant progress has been made under this performance measure, with 98 per cent of Saskatchewan people having access to detailed assessment data without having to file an appeal.

With full access to the detailed assessment information, property taxpayers can determine how the assessor calculated the fair value of their property. This is consistent with the principle of transparency. Transparency of information strengthens the property taxpayers' understanding of the assessing authorities' determination of their fair value assessment. Property taxpayers can use this information to determine whether their property was valued fairly and accurately and whether an appeal should be undertaken. Access to detailed assessment is dependent on the assessment service providers.

Goal 4

Saskatchewan's identity, heritage and the achievements of our people are honoured, promoted and celebrated.

Objective 1. The province's recognition programs and symbols are reflective of our province's diversity.

It is important to have recognition programs and symbols in our society. Symbols officially represent who we are as Saskatchewan residents and what our economy and society are about. Recognition programs are a way of bestowing public recognition on deserving citizens who contribute to the well-being of us all and whose achievements are deserving of public recognition. Our recognition programs and symbols should be reflective of the diversity of our society.

The Saskatchewan Honours and Awards Program – consisting of the Saskatchewan Order of Merit, the Saskatchewan Volunteer Medal, the Saskatchewan Protective Services Medal, the Saskatchewan Centennial Medal, the Saskatchewan Distinguished Service Award and the Premier's Award for Excellence in the Public Service –recognized and honoured many Saskatchewan citizens, and individuals from outside our province, who have made significant contributions.

The Saskatchewan Centennial Medal Program that began on January 1, 2005, continued throughout the year and successfully fulfilled its mandate – to mark Saskatchewan's centennial year by recognizing past successes and by celebrating the promise of a bright future.

Diversity of nominations (e.g. women, Aboriginal and rural/small urban) in the provincial Honours and Awards Program continues to be a challenge for two reasons: i) limited financial resources restrict the ability to widely promote the program, and ii) geographical challenges in promoting the program throughout the province. There was an increase in the percentage of women being nominated for provincial honours, mainly for the Saskatchewan Volunteer Medal.

The Provincial Secretary Division promotes provincial symbols, while maintaining appropriate policies. Three emblems were adopted through amendments to the *Provincial Emblems and Honours Act*. These are the official recognition of the Fransaskois flag as a provincial emblem, the walleye as the fish emblem and the Saskatoon berry as the berry emblem.

Key Results

- Co-ordinate, promote and manage the Saskatchewan Protective Services Medal. [2005-06 planned result]
  - The department successfully coordinated and managed the program. The promotion of the program was limited because of the impact the centennial year had on the department.
- Actively promote, co-ordinate and manage the Premier's Award for Excellence in the Public Service (PAEPS) to all eligible departments and agencies. [2005-06 planned result]
  - The office of Protocol and Honours corresponds and meets with senior officials of eligible departments and agencies to create an awareness of the Premier's Award for Excellence in the Public Service and to encourage nominations. Nominations from a variety of eligible departments and agencies have been received. Feedback from recipients, nominees, public servants and elected members has been positive.
- Implement the Centennial Medal Program. [2005-06 planned result]
  - The Saskatchewan Centennial Medal was successfully implemented and 78 events were held throughout the province with approximately 3,500 individuals receiving a medal in 2005-06.
- Manage Centennial plans as they relate to the Government Relations mandate, in conjunction with the Centennial 2005 office. [2005-06 planned result]
  - The Office of Protocol and Honours successfully managed the visit of The Queen and The Duke of Edinburgh, and was involved in other centennial initiatives including the Saskatchewan Remembers Committee, the marking of the Premiers' grave sites and the Veterans Memorial Highway initiative.

Measurement Results

Proportion of Aboriginal people, women and rural/small urban in honours and nominations.

Baseline – March 31, 2003	2003-04 year-end results	2004-05 actual results achieved as at March 31, 2005	2005-06 actual results achieved as at March 31, 2006
Aboriginal – 5%	Aboriginal – 4%	Aboriginal – 4.5%	Aboriginal – 4.3%
Women – 37%	Women – 30%	Women – 34.5%	Women – 39%
Rural/small urban – 27%	Rural/small urban – 32.5%	Rural/small urban – 33%	Rural/small urban – 31.5%

Data source: Actual nominations received, as recorded by the department.

2001 statistics indicate that 53 per cent of Saskatchewan's population lives in urban centres (13 cities) and 47 per cent live in rural Saskatchewan. By measuring the number of nominations received from these various groups for the Saskatchewan Order of Merit and the Saskatchewan Volunteer Medal, we will have an indication of how well these programs reflect the diversity in our population.

Factors that shape performance results include limited funding available to communicate the message for the Saskatchewan Order of Merit (SOM) and Saskatchewan Volunteer Medal (SVM) to the targeted communities (Aboriginal, Women and rural/small urban).

The Premier's Award for Excellence in the Public Service: Number of nominations received and number of departments represented in nominations.

Baseline – 2003-04	2004-05 actual results achieved as at March 31, 2005	2005-06 actual results achieved as at March 31, 2006
41 nominations from 16 departments/ agencies	21 nominations from 10 departments/ agencies	30 nominations from 19 departments/ agencies

Data source: Actual nominations received, as recorded by the department.

tax relief for agricultural land starting in 2006. An incremental $52.8 million is being provided for relief for agricultural land, achieving on average a 60/40 provincial/local government education funding split for agricultural land. The department and Learning are working on a long-term solution for property tax relief.

- Continue to monitor changes to improve the integrity and reliability of the assessment system and property tax system and recommend any needed legislative changes. [2005-06 planned results]

  - The required legislative changes were passed in the spring 2006 legislative session.

Measurement Results

Percentage of people that have full access to detailed assessment data without having to file an appeal (subject to confidentiality legislation).

Baseline – 2003	2004-05 actual results achieved as at March 31, 2005	2005-06 actual results achieved as at March 31, 2006
18%	18%	98%

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Key Results

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Baseline – 2003-04	2004-05 actual results achieved as at March 31, 2005	2005-06 actual results achieved as at March 31, 2006
41 nominations from 16 departments/ agencies	21 nominations from 10 departments/ agencies	30 nominations from 19 departments/ agencies

Data source: Actual nominations received, as recorded by the department.

Our public servants come from a variety of backgrounds. By measuring the number of nominations received and the number of awards bestowed, we will have an indication of whether this program reflects the diversity of departments within the public service. We realized an increase in the number of nominations, due to the continued awareness and respect for the program by public servants and by the public-at-large.

To maintain and improve performance, the department promotes this program to public servants and external stakeholders through news releases, e-mails and presentations to agency designated award representatives.

The Saskatchewan Protective Services Medal: The number of nominations received; and the number of eligible agencies represented in nominations.

Baseline – March 31, 2004	2004-05 actual results achieved as at March 31, 2005	2005-06 actual results achieved as at March 31, 2006
497 nominations received	298 nominations received	27 nominations received
9 out of 11 eligible agencies represented	9 out of 11 eligible agencies represented	9 out of 11 eligible agencies represented

Data source: Actual nominations received, as recorded by the department.

Individuals who work in areas that protect Saskatchewan people and property come from a diverse population throughout the province. By measuring the number of nominations received and the number of awards bestowed, we will have an indication of how this program reflects the diversity of agencies within the province.

There has been a significant reduction in the number of nominations received. This is due to the fact that there was a backlog of eligible personnel who had achieved 25 years or longer of exemplary service and these nominations have now been received and processed.

A clear majority of eligible agencies are represented in nominations and recipients of the Saskatchewan Protective Services Medal. The agencies not represented do not yet have qualified personnel. The Saskatchewan Protective Services Medal Advisory Committee, when reviewing nominations, ensures that exemplary service is reflected in each nominee.

Objective 2. Government House Museum and Heritage Property is an integral part of Saskatchewan's centennial celebrations.

Commemoration of historical information and artifacts is an important way to honour our past. Government House Museum and Heritage Property is a National Historic Site that had a significant role in shaping the political and social character of Western Canada as it developed during the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. Government House is a working museum that serves as a landmark and legacy for residents of Saskatchewan.

Construction of the Government House Centennial Project Addition, the Phase I Queen Elizabeth II Wing, was successfully completed in time for the visit and official opening by The Queen in May 2005. Construction of the Phase II J.E.N. Wiebe Interpretive Center was 95 per cent complete for the royal visit, and was also officially opened. This centennial project is a key provincial legacy for the people of Saskatchewan while honouring and commemorating the historical significance of this National Historic Site.

Key Results

- Produce media ads (radio, print, signage, bill boards) promoting, marketing and celebrating Government House as a tourism destination point. [2005-06 planned result]

  - Six advertisements were placed in prominent tourism-related publications, including Tourism Saskatchewan and Tourism Regina. Four website promotions were maintained. Two Government House brochures with a total distribution of 12,000 were delivered. Promotional packages were delivered to Saskatchewan schools promoting education programs. Packages were delivered to pre-school day care centres promoting educational themes. Trade shows/conferences/major Regina events were attended to promote Government House, including the Western Farm

Progress Show, Agribition, the Brier, and the Regina Spring and Garden Show.

- Poll/survey Saskatchewan residents and tourists to ensure promotional materials are broad-based and educational. [2005-06 planned result]

  - During the 2003-2004 fiscal year, a detailed survey was developed to poll Government House visitors/tourists as a method to determine the effectiveness of marketing and promotional efforts. Individuals have been surveyed annually during the summer months since 2003 and comprehensive and productive results are readily consulted and available.

- Complete the Government House Centennial Project addition and celebrate it with a grand opening ceremony during the provincial centennial year. [2005-06 planned result]

  - The Government House Centennial Project addition was completed in February of 2005. The addition was officially named "QEII Wing" and was opened by The Queen in May 2005.

- Build an interpretive centre within historic Government House to be completed and celebrated at the grand opening during the provincial centennial year. [2005-06 planned result]

  - Construction of a centennial project interpretive centre was commenced in October 2004. The Centre was named after former Lieutenant Governor J.E.N. (Jack) Wiebe and was officially opened by The Queen in May 2005.

- Enhance the Government House education programs by featuring the history of Canadian governance, the role of the Lieutenant Governor and the history of treaties. [2005-06 planned result]

  - The J.E.N. Wiebe Interpretive Centre was available to all Government House visitors, including students attending educational programs. The Centre appeals to all ages and its content was developed with Saskatchewan Learning's curriculum in mind. The staff and management of Government House are working with Learning to incorporate the J.E.N. Wiebe Interpretive Centre formally into Saskatchewan's elementary Social Studies curriculum in both of Canada's official languages.

- Determine the types of marketing vehicles that attract visitors and tourists to Government House. [2005-06 planned result]

  - The Government House summer visitor survey is continually consulted to enhance marketing strategies. Visitor statistics clearly determine how individuals and groups find their way to the facility. Annual visitation remains constant, with slight increases over the last four years, but visitor types fluctuate significantly. Therefore, it has been determined that a variety of marketing vehicles should be utilized.

Measurement Results

Awareness of Government House Museum and Heritage Property

Baseline - January 2002	2004-05 actual results achieved as at March 31, 2005	2005-06 actual results achieved as at March 31, 2006
51%	First poll was undertaken in January 2002, but subsequent omnibus polls have not included Government House questions.	N/A. Government House questions were not included in 2005-06 omnibus polls.

Data source: Government polling records.

Government House visitation fluctuates annually among user types, but has been increasing overall for three consecutive years and has now reached 30,000 per year. Omnibus polling has not proven to be a reliable source for data; therefore, annual results from Government House summer visitors is scrutinized and marketing efforts are tailored to address deficiencies or to supplement strengths in

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relative categories. Government House annual visitation statistics have been collected since 2000-01. Government House summer visitor survey statistics have been collected since 2003-04.

Visitation to Government House by tourists, students and others is impacted or controlled by many extraneous sources. Tourism potential is affected primarily by the power of consumers to spend, and by their direct relationship to the cost of goods and services acquired. Tourism and travel in Saskatchewan and Canada is declining according to Tourism Saskatchewan statistics due to the high cost of goods and services relative to foreign dollar values. Visitation by students and their consumption of Government House programs is directly proportional to their available time and dollars. In a competitive market, often the least cost and most available attractions will be visited. Government House visitation has increased overall, but management will need to react to changing conditions in this complex competitive market to stimulate growth in each market share.

2005-06 Financial Results

Summary of Expenditures

The following table summarizes budgeted versus actual expenditures by subvote and subprogram. Variance explanations are provided for all variances that are greater than 5% and $100,000.

In thousands of dollars

Subvote/Subprogram	Original Estimates	Actual Expenditures	Variance Over/ (Under)	
GR01 Administration	**5,329**	**5,832**	**503**	**1**
GR04 Intergovernmental Relations	**4,409**	**4,207**	**(202)**	
Federal-Provincial Relations	840	604	(236)	**2**
International Relations	916	936	20	
Trade Policy	514	488	(26)	
Immigration	1,735	1,810	75	
Office of French-Language Coordination	404	369	(35)	
GR07 Municipal Financial Assistance	**143,308**	**170,812**	**27,504**	
Urban Revenue Sharing	44,109	51,409	7,300	**3**
Rural Revenue Sharing	33,961	38,037	4,076	**3**
Northern Revenue Sharing	6,980	7,801	821	**3**
Canada-Saskatchewan Infrastructure Program	22,658	14,422	(8,236)	**4**
Transit Assistance for the Disabled	2,650	2,650	0	
Grants-in-Lieu of Property Taxes	11,500	10,732	(768)	**5**
SAMA (Authorized by Law)	4,000	4,000	0	
SAMA (Supplementary)	1,835	2,035	200	**6**
Municipal Rural Infrastructure Fund	9,215	4,336	(4,879)	**7**
Canada Strategic Infrastructure Fund	5,900	3,400	(2,500)	**8**
Urban Development Agreements	500	0	(500)	**9**
Community Share 2006	0	31,990	31,990	**10**
GR08 Municipal Relations	**5,113**	**4,415**	**(698)**	**2**
GR10 New Deal for Cities & Communities	**0**	**8,263**	**8,263**	**11**
GR03 Provincial Secretary	**2,255**	**2,454**	**199**	
Lieutenant Governor's Office	479	573	94	
Office of Protocol and Honours	1,311	1,389	78	
Government House	465	492	27	
GR06 Saskatchewan Municipal Board	**1,071**	**1,022**	**(49)**	
Administration – Local Government Committee	712	734	22	
Planning Appeals Committee	94	78	(16)	
Assessment Appeals Committee	265	210	(55)	
Total Appropriation and Expenditures	**161,485**	**197,005**	**35,520**	
Capital Assets	**3**	**3**	**0**	
Capital Asset Acquisitions	0	0	0	
Capital Asset Amortization	3	3	0	
Other Expense	**0**	**1,228**	**1,228**	**12**
Subtotal	**161,488**	**198,236**	**36,748**	
Special Warrant Funding	44,209			**13**
Total Expenses	**205,697**	**198,236**	**(7,461)**	

Explanations of Major Variances

1) Over expenditures primarily related to increased information technology costs and increased salary costs.

2) Under expenditures related to internal restructuring, vacant positions and miscellaneous operating costs.

3) Supplemental revenue sharing grants provided to municipalities.

4) Fewer projects were completed than originally anticipated, primarily as a result of unfavorable weather conditions and municipalities' difficulty in meeting federal and provincial environmental and regulatory requirements.

5) Under expenditure resulting from reassessment and change in property status.

6) Additional grant funding provided to assist with operating pressures.

7) Deferral of projects to 2006-07 as a result of approvals issued late in the construction season.

8) Delayed projects starts.

9) Agreements for eligible projects were not finalized.

10) One-time capital grant funding provided to municipalities.

11) Costs associated with the federal gas tax transfer initiative in accordance with the bilateral agreement signed in August 2005.

12) Expense is comprised primarily of a capital asset write-down required to re-classify costs previously capitalized for an addition to Government House Museum and Heritage Property, to reflect a change in accounting policy.

13) Special warrant received to fund supplemental revenue sharing grants and one-time capital grant funding provided to municipalities.

Summary of Revenues

The department's major revenue relates to cost-shared agreements with the federal government. All revenue collected is deposited in the General Revenue Fund. A summary of the department's 2005-06 budgeted revenue compared to actual revenue is presented below. Variance explanations are provided for all variances that are greater than $100,000.

In thousands of dollars

Revenue Category	Budget	Actual Revenue	Variances Over/ (Under)	Notes
Revenue				
Other Licenses and Permits	**230**	**362**	**132**	
Subdivision Fees	229	360	131	1
Property and Building Rental	1	2	1	
Other Revenues	**5**	**20**	**15**	
Casual Revenue	0	0	0	
Refunds – Previous Years Expenditures	5	20	15	
Realized Gain or Loss	0	0	0	
Sales, Service, Service Fees	**290**	**45**	**(245)**	
Management Fees	200	0	(200)	2
Debenture Authorization	25	26	1	
Miscellaneous Services	3	6	3	
Other Service Fees	62	13	(49)	
Transfers from the Federal Government	**16,562**	**40,825**	**24,263**	
Canada-Saskatchewan Infrastructure Program	11,328	7,697	(3,631)	3
Municipal Rural Infrastructure Fund	4,750	2,272	(2,478)	4
OFLC – Official Languages Agreements	284	221	(63)	
Enhanced Language Training Agreement	200	153	(47)	
Employability Assistance	0	290	290	5
New Deals for Cities & Communities	0	17,729	17,729	6
Public Transit Program	0	12,463	12,463	7
Department Revenue	**17,087**	**41,252**	**24,165**	

Explanations of Major Variances

1) Increased revenue resulting from an increase in the number of multi-lot subdivisions.

2) Management fees charged to the Northern Revenue Sharing Trust Account were inadvertently omitted from year-end accounting entries.

3) Fewer projects were completed than originally anticipated. The program has, as a result, been extended to March 31, 2008.

4) Many projects were delayed due to weather conditions, contractor availability and tenders exceeding expectation.

5) Unanticipated revenue representing Government Relation's share of the Labour Market Agreement for People with Disabilities, a federal-provincial cost share program.

6) Unanticipated revenue representing Saskatchewan's share of the New Deal for Cities and Communities, a new federal program initiated in 2005-06.

7) Unanticipated revenue representing Saskatchewan's share of the Agreement on the Transfer of Funds for Public Transit, a new federal program initiated in 2005-06.

Financial Accountability Statement
From a fiscal accountability perspective, Government Relations is responsible for ensuring:

- available funding goes to the highest priority needs;
- value is obtained for the money provided;
- compliance with existing legislation and regulations;
- proper controls are in place to safeguard public assets; and
- appropriate results are reported to the public and the legislature.

There are a number of checks and balances in place to ensure these responsibilities are met. They include:

Audited Results – The Provincial Auditor's Office has legislative responsibility to audit Government Relations and to publish the results.

Accountable to Legislature – Government Relations, like all government departments, is required to appear before the Public Accounts Committee of the Legislature. In addition, the department's annual budget is published in the government's Budget Estimates. Other departmental spending is detailed in the Public Accounts, and the Minister of Government Relations appears before the Legislature's Committees in relation to the department Budget Estimates.

Public Reporting – The Annual Report is one of several documents published by the department that helps to establish accountability.

For More Information

Additional information about Government Relations is available at our website: http://www.gr.gov.sk.ca. The website includes both general and more detailed information about the department, its programs and services, and legislation for which the department is responsible.

For more information about Government Relations, or to provide feedback about the department's 2005-06 Annual Report or performance results, please contact us at:

Phone: (306) 787-2635
Email: info@gr.gov.sk.ca

Mailing address:
Government Relations
14th Floor, 1855 Victoria Avenue
Regina SK S4P 3T2

Appendix – Legislation

Acts and Regulations which are the responsibility of the Minister of Government Relations or the Provincial Secretary:

Municipal

- *The Assessment Appraisers Act*
- *The Assessment Management Agency Act*
- *The Border Areas Act*
- *The Cities Act*
- *The City of Lloydminster Act*
- *The Community Planning Profession Act*
- *The Controverted Municipal Elections Act*
- *The Cut Knife Reference Act*
- *The Department of Rural Development Act*
- *The Department of Urban Affairs Act*
- *The Flin Flon Extension of Boundaries Act, 1952*
- *The Local Government Election Act*
- *The Local Improvements Act, 1993*
- *The Municipal Board Act*
- *The Municipal Debentures Repayment Act*
- *The Municipal Development and Loan (Saskatchewan) Act*
- *The Municipal Expropriation Act*
- *The Municipal Industrial Development Corporations Act*
- *The Municipal Revenue Sharing Act*
- *The Municipal Tax Sharing (Potash) Act*
- *The Municipalities Act*
- *The Municipality Improvements Assistance (Saskatchewan) Act*
- *The Northern Municipalities Act*
- *The Planning and Development Act, 1983*
- *The Rural Municipal Administrators Act*
- *The Subdivisions Act*
- *The Tax Enforcement Act*
- *The Time Act*
- *The Urban Municipal Administrators Act*
- *The Urban Municipality Act, 1984*

Provincial Secretary

- *The Historic Properties Foundations Act*
- *The Provincial Secretary's Act*
- *The Recognition of John George Diefenbaker Day Act*
- *The Tommy Douglas Day Act*

President of Executive Council

- *The Provincial Emblems and Honours Act*